

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12

OMB-01 EB-11 AID-20 TRSE-00 DPW-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01

/144 W

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R 231024 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3222

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2175

E. O. 11 652 : GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, TH

SUBJECT: THAI DEPUTY FONMIN VISITS VIENTIANE

REFERENCE: A. BANGKOK 4517 B. VIENTIANE 2102

BEGIN SUMMARY: THAI DEPUTY FONMIN CHARTCHAI CHUNHAWAN
PAID AND OFFICIAL VISIT TO VIENTIANE MARCH 20-22. HE
CONFERRED WITH SOUVANNA AND OTHER RLG LEADERS, ASSURED
LAOS OF THAI SUPPORT AND INVITED LAOS TO SEND OBSERVERS
TO THE NEXT ASEAN MEETING. CHARTCHAI APPRENTLY DID
NOT TALK WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS WHILE IN
VIENTIANE; BUT PRC CHARGE ATTENDED OFFICIAL THAI FUNCTION FOR FIRST
TIME. END SUMMARY.

THAI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER BRIGADIER GENERAL

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CHARTCHAI CHUNHAWAN MADE A TWO- DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO VIENTIANE MARCH 20-22, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND A SIX- MAN RTG DELEGATION. AT A DINNER GIVEN BY THE PRIMIN MARCH 20, CHARTCHAI WAS AWARDED THE GRAND CROSS OF THE MILLION ELEPHANTS AND THE WHITE PARASOL. EXPRESSING HIS GRATITUDE, HE STATED THAT THE RTG FULLY SUPPORTS PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA AND HIS GOVERNMENT.

2. THE FOLLOWING DAY CHARTCHAI HELD TALKS WITH SOUVANNA, ROYAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRINCE KHAMMAO, AND OTHER RLG OFFICIALS. PRESS REPORTS SPECULATED THAT THE MAJOR TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE THE THREAT OF COMMUNIST INVASION ACROSS THE THAI- LAO BORDER AND THE POSTWAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LAOS. CHARTCHAI LATER TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD INVITED SOUVANNA TO SEND RLG OBSERVERS TO THE ASEAN MEETING IN PATTAYA APRIL 16-18, AND THE RLG WAS CONSIDERING THE INVITATION. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT THAILAND WILL SET UP A CONSULATE IN THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE TOURISM. THE EVENING OF MARCH 21 CHARTCHAI HELD A RECEPTION AT THE THAI EMBASSY FOR HIS LAO HOSTS, WHICH WAS ATTENDED FOR FIRST TIME BY PRC CHARGE. HE DEPARTED FOR BANGKOK THE FOLLOWING DAY.

3. APPARENTLY CHARTCHAI DID NOT CALL ON THE NORTH VIET- NAMESE CHARGE IN VIENTIANE TO DISCUSS THE REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE IN THAILAND, AS HAD BEEN RUMORED. HE DID, HOWEVER, CONFER BRIEFLY WITH THE PRC CHARGE AT THE THAI EMBASSY RECEPTION, AND LATER TOLD THE PRESS IN BANGKOK THAT HE HAD TOLD THE CHARGE HE WOULD BE WELCOME TO VISIT THE THAI CAPITAL.

4. CHARTCHAI' S VISIT SERVED TO UNDERScore CONTINUING THAI CONCERN OVER THE GENERAL SITUATION IN LAOS. HIS EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR SOUVANNA WAS TIMELY AND WELL- APPRECIATED. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE VISIT STATED THAT THAILAND WOULD ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POST WAR LAOS, MAINLY IN THE FIELDS OF RECONSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION, AND STIPULATED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD TRY THEIR BEST TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND SECURITY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE MEKONG. THE INVITATION FOR LAOS TO SEND OBSERVERS TO THE ASEAN MEETING IS CONSIDERED ROUTINE, AS LAOS HAS REGULARLY SENT OBSERVERS

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TO SUCH MEETINGS.
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